

(REV 11-98)		DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER
		TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		D-7683
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/US99/00853		INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 15/01/99	U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 09/600434	
			PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 16/01/98	
TITLE OF INVENTION MACHINE FOR PACKAGING A PLURALITY OF ARTICLES IN A CARTON, AND METHOD OF FORMING A CARTON				
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Pascal Portrait				
<p>Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210). 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 9. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)). 11. <input type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409). 12. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)). 				
<p>Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 17. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 18. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 19. <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail 20. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: 				

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR 09/600434	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/US99/00853	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER D-7683		
21. The following fees are submitted.	CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY			
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :				
<input type="checkbox"/> Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO	\$970.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO	\$840.00			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO	\$690.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)	\$670.00			
<input type="checkbox"/> International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)	\$96.00			
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =		\$690.00		
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)).		<input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 \$0.00		
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total claims	21 - 20 =	1	x \$18.00	\$18.00
Independent claims	5 - 3 =	2	x \$78.00	\$156.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =		\$864.00		
Reduction of 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. Verified Small Entity Statement must also be filed (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28) (check if applicable).		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00	
		SUBTOTAL =		\$864.00
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)).		<input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 +	\$0.00	
		TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =		\$864.00
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable).		<input type="checkbox"/>	\$0.00	
		TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =		\$864.00
		Amount to be: refunded	\$	
		charged	\$	

- A check in the amount of _____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- Please charge my Deposit Account No. **13-2512** in the amount of **\$864.00** to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **13-2512** A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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REGISTRATION NUMBER

July 14, 2000

DATE

09/600434

D-7683

532 Rec'd PCT/PTC 15 JUL 2000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Pascal Portrait

Filed: Herewith

Application Serial No.: not yet assigned

For: MACHINE FOR PACKAGING A PLURALITY OF ARTICLES IN A
CARTON, AND METHOD OF FORMING A CARTON

International Application Number: PCT/US99/00853

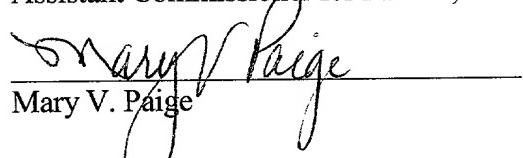
Priority Application Number: GB 9800884.0 filed 16 January 1998

Attorney's Docket: D-7683

Certificate of Express Mailing

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service's as "Express Mail, Post Office to Addressee" in an envelope addressed to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents; Washington, DC, 20231 on 14 July 2000.



Mary V. Paige

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is filed for consideration in the above application prior to examination of the application.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (amended) The packaging machine as claimed in claim 1, [or claim 2] wherein one of said complementary members comprises a protruding portion extending from a working

face of the complementary member and wherein the other said complementary member comprises a recessed portion adapted to receive said protruding portion and wherein the blank is placed on said receiving member and wherein the protruding portion forces part of the blank into said receiving portion.

4.(amended) The packaging machine as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 1, [to 3] wherein said selecting means comprises a plurality of channels mounted on an endless chain which said channels are grouped to correspond to the number of articles to be placed into said first article receiving cell and wherein the channels are adapted to substantially align each said article with said first article receiving cell.

6. (amended) The packaging machine as claimed in [any preceding] claim 1, further comprising a conveyor including means to convey the articles and means to regulate the flow of articles to enable the articles to be aligned with each said carton.

7. (amended) A method of loading a plurality of articles into a carton whilst the articles and carton are moved in a synchronised manner and in a continuous forward direction, the method comprising the following steps:

- i) transferring carton blank from a stowed position and erecting said blank to form the carton;
- ii) selecting a group of articles to be loaded into said carton
- iii) synchronously associating an article receiving cell formed from the blank with a given number of said grouped articles by sideways movement of said articles;
- iv) transferring said carton and loading said grouped articles into said carton

through an open end thereof characterised in that the blank is erected by erecting means comprising complementary die members, each said die member being mounted to a rotating wheel wherein each said complementary die member is adapted to inter engage when a blank is positioned between the two members, such that said die members cause the blank to be folded to define said article receiving cells.

8. (amended) A mechanism for forming a carton including a pair of article receiving cells, the method comprising complementary die members, each said die member being mounted to a rotating wheel wherein each said complementary die member is adapted to inter engage when a blank is positioned between the two members, such that said die members cause the blank to be folded to define said article receiving cells.

14. (amended) The mechanism as claimed in claim 12, [or claim 13] wherein the support means comprises a channel including a support surface to retain part of the article within said channel.

16. (amended) The mechanism as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 12, [to 15] wherein the orientation means comprises an elongate member connected to resilient means, wherein said elongate member is adapted to abut a portion of said article as said support means is moved in a substantially parallel plane to said elongate member such that a tangential force is applied to said abutting portion of the article to cause the article to rotate.

18. (amended) The mechanism as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 12, [to 17] wherein the abutment means is formed from an upper edge of said channel.

19. (amended) A packaging machine as claimed in [any of] claim[s] 1, [to 6] wherein each article includes a label affixed thereto and further includes a portion protruding outwardly of the article in a fixed position relative said label, the packaging machine further comprising [the mechanism of any of claims 12 to 18] support means adapted to support an article, orientation means adapted to cause the article to rotate in the support means until the protruding position is restrained by abutment means formed in said support means to [orientate] orient said group of articles prior to loading the articles into the carton].

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 3, 2000

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**MACHINE FOR PACKAGING A PLURALITY OF ARTICLES IN A CARTON, AND
METHOD OF FORMING A CARTON**

This invention relates to a packaging machine which is especially suitable for
5 processing multiple package cartons from blank form to completed filled multiple unit
cartons and to a method of forming such cartons. The machine can be readily adjusted
to accommodate a wide range of carton sizes without undue time being taken to adapt
the machine for running one size of carton to running a different size of carton.

10 The majority of known packaging machines are dedicated machines which construct
only one size or one type of carton. Therefore, it is necessary to use a plurality of
packaging machines to package different carton types, each machine taking up
considerable floor space and being expensive to both purchase and operate.

15 In packaging machines which are required to construct cartons comprising internal
compartments for holding a given number of articles, the construction of these cartons
is usually complex and often dictates the speed of the machine . What is required is a
packaging machine which can construct compartments within a carton with a minimum
number of folding operations.

20 A further problem arises when loading the articles into the compartments and in
particular where those compartments are in a spaced arrangement. It is known to
provide article metering mechanisms which continuously load a group of articles into
cartons, for example, wrap-around cartons used in beverage multiple packs. However,

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where carton compartments are in a spaced relationship, it is necessary for some form of article grouping to be adapted.

It is an object of the present invention to provide a packaging machine which overcomes the
5 technical and commercial disadvantages of known packaging machines.

In cartons where a display portion is provided, it is often desirable for display indicia to be shown through the display portion. The majority of known packaging machines are not able to orientate the display indicia on an article, for example, a label, so that it can be displayed.

10 A limited number of packaging machines incorporate equipment to orientate the containers. However, this equipment is usually complex or extremely costly for example, use of survey motors or optic fibre and a printed colour spot on the label to identify (i) a suitable reference point and (ii) to align the reference point at the correct position.

15 Thus it is a further object of the present invention to provide a mechanism for incorporation into a packaging machine which is capable of orienting containers for example, batteries, using equipment which is relatively inexpensive and simple.

According to a first aspect of the invention there comprises a packaging machine for loading
20 a plurality of articles into a carton which mechanism comprises carton erecting means for part erecting said carton to define a first article receiving cell, means for selecting a group of articles comprising at least two articles, means for separating said grouped articles from an adjacent like group of articles, means for loading said grouped articles into said first article receiving cell through an open end thereof in the packaged carton and a means for completing

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the construction of the carton characterised in that said carton erecting means comprises complementary die members, each said die member being mounted to a rotating wheel wherein each said complementary die member is adapted to inter engage when a carton blank is positioned between the two members, such that said die members cause the

5 blank to be folded to define said article receiving cells. Preferably, the carton erecting means may comprise a device which effects a change in configuration of the carton from an inoperative configuration in which said first article receiving cell is formed to receive said grouped articles.

10 According to an optional feature of this aspect of the invention one of the complementary members may comprise a protruding portion extending from a working face of the complementing member and wherein the other said complementing member comprises a recessed portion adapted to receive said protruding portion and wherein the blank is placed on said receiving member and wherein the protruding portion forces part of the blank into said receiving portion.

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According to another feature of this aspect of the invention the selecting means may comprise a plurality of channels mounted on an endless chain which channels are grouped to correspond to the number of articles to be placed into the first article receiving cell and

20 wherein the channels are adapted to substantially align each article with the first article receiving cell.

According to another feature of this aspect of the invention, the carton may comprise a second article receiving cell formed by the carton erecting means in a spaced relationship to

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the first article receiving cell wherein the grouped channels comprise at least two channels in substantially parallel relationship to one another wherein at least two channels are adapted to diverge into a plurality of sub-groups wherein each sub-group is spaced to align an article held in each sub-group with one of the article receiving cells.

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Optionally, the packaging machine of this aspect of the invention may further comprise a conveyor including means to convey the articles and means to regulate the flow of articles to enable the articles to be aligned with each carton.

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A second aspect of the invention provides a method of loading a plurality of articles into a carton whilst the articles and carton are moved in a synchronised manner and in a continuous forward direction comprising the following steps:

- i) transferring carton blank from a stowed position and erecting the blank to form the carton;
- ii) selecting a group of articles to be loaded into the carton
- iii) synchronously associating an article receiving cell formed from the blank with a given number of the grouped articles by sideways movement of the articles;
- iv) transferring the carton and loading the grouped articles into a carton through an open end thereof. The blank is erected by erecting means comprising complementary die members, each die member being mounted to a rotating wheel wherein each complementary die member is adapted to inter engage when a blank is positioned between the two members, such that the die members cause the blank to be folded to define the article receiving cells.

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A third aspect of the invention provides a mechanism for forming a carton including a pair of article receiving cells comprising complementary die members, each die member being mounted to a rotating wheel wherein each complementary die member is adapted to inter engage when a blank is positioned between the two members, such that the die members cause the blank to be folded to define the article receiving cells.

According to an optional feature of the third aspect of the invention, one of the complementary members may comprise a protruding portion extending from a working face of the complementary member and wherein the other complementary member comprises a recessed portion adapted to receive the protruding portion and wherein the blank is placed on the receiving member and wherein the protruding portion forces part of the blank into the receiving portion.

A fourth aspect of the invention provides a mechanism for grouping a plurality of articles which mechanism comprising an endless series of channels along which articles may be transferred into a plurality of article receiving cells of a carton wherein the channels are organised into groupings whereby each grouping corresponds to a given number of articles to be loaded in the carton.

- 20 According to an optional feature of the fourth aspect of the invention the channels may be adapted to be substantially parallel to one another and then diverge into sub-groupings wherein each sub-group is spaced to align an article held in each sub-group with one of the article receiving cells corresponding to each one of the cells of each carton and wherein the

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sub-groupings are each substantially parallel to one to provide in line parallel access to the cells.

A fifth aspect of the invention provides a mechanism for causing a label affixed to an article 5 to be oriented to a predetermined display position wherein the article includes a portion protruding outwardly of the article in a fixed position relative the label, wherein the mechanism comprises support means adapted to support an article, orientation means adapted to cause the article to rotate in the support means until the protruding position is restrained by abutment means formed in the support means. Preferably, one edge of the label affixed to the article overlays an opposed edge of the label to define the protruding portion.

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According to a further optional feature of the fifth aspect of this invention, the abutment means may be formed from an upper edge of the channel.

A sixth aspect of this invention provides a method of orienting to a predetermined display position wherein the article includes an outwardly protruding portion in a fixed position relative to the label a label affixed to an article which method comprising the steps of supporting the article in support means during forward movement, rotating the article within the support means until the protruding portion abuts a portion of the support means and retaining the article in its desired orientation for loading into a carton.

Embodiments of the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a selection of "blister pack" type cartons packaged by a machine according to one or more aspects of the invention;

FIGURE 2 is a plan view of a unitary blank used to construct one type of carton capable of being used with a machine according to the invention .

20 FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the carton formed from the blank shown in Figure 2.

FIGURE 4 is a perspective view of a machine according to one or more aspects of the invention;

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FIGURES 5a and 5b are perspective views of the carton supply in-feed and set-up stations of the machine shown in Figure 4;

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CLAIMS

1. A packaging machine for loading a plurality of articles into a carton which mechanism comprises carton erecting means for part erecting said carton to define a first article receiving cell, means for selecting a group of articles comprising at least two articles, means for separating said grouped articles from an adjacent like group of articles, means for loading said grouped articles into said first article receiving cell through an open end thereof in the packaged carton and a means for completing the construction of the carton characterised in that said carton erecting means comprises complementary die members, each said die member being mounted to a rotating wheel wherein each said complementary die member is adapted to inter engage when a carton blank is positioned between the two members, such that said die members cause the blank to be folded to define said article receiving cells.
- 15 2. The packaging machine as claimed in claim 1 wherein said carton erecting means comprises a device which effects a change in configuration of the carton from an inoperative configuration in which said first article receiving cell is formed to receive said grouped articles.
- 20 3. The packaging machine as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein one of said complementary members comprises a protruding portion extending from a working face of the complementary member and wherein the other said complementary member comprises a recessed portion adapted to receive said protruding portion and wherein the blank is placed

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on said receiving member and wherein the protruding portion forces part of the blank into said receiving portion.

4. The packaging machine as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3 wherein said selecting means comprises a plurality of channels mounted on an endless chain which said channels are grouped to correspond to the number of articles to be placed into said first article receiving cell and wherein the channels are adapted to substantially align each said article with said first article receiving cell.

5. The packaging machine as claimed in claim 4 wherein the carton comprises a second article receiving cell formed by said carton erecting means in a spaced relationship to said first article receiving cell wherein said grouped channels comprise at least two channels in substantially parallel relationship to one another wherein said at least two channels are adapted to diverge into a plurality of sub-groups wherein each said sub-group is spaced to align an article held in each said sub-group with one of said article receiving cells.

6. The packaging machine as claimed in any preceding claim further comprising a conveyor including means to convey the articles and means to regulate the flow of articles to enable the articles to be aligned with each said carton.

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7. A method of loading a plurality of articles into a carton whilst the articles and carton are moved in a synchronised manner and in a continuous forward direction comprising the following steps:

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- i) transferring carton blank from a stowed position and erecting said blank to form the carton;
- ii) selecting a group of articles to be loaded into said carton
- iii) synchronously associating an article receiving cell formed from the blank with
5 a given number of said grouped articles by sideways movement of said articles;
- iv) transferring said carton and loading said grouped articles into said carton through an open end thereof characterised in that the blank is erected by erecting means comprising complementary die members, each said die member being mounted to a rotating wheel wherein each said complementary die member is adapted to inter engage when a blank is positioned between the two members, such that said die members cause the blank to be folded to define said article receiving cells.

8. A mechanism for forming a carton including a pair of article receiving cells comprising complementary die members, each said die member being mounted to a rotating wheel wherein each said complementary die member is adapted to inter engage when a blank is positioned between the two members, such that said die members cause the blank to be folded to define said article receiving cells.

9. The mechanism as claimed in claim 8 wherein one of said complementary members
20 comprises a protruding portion extending from a working face of the complementary member and wherein the other said complementary member comprises a recessed portion adapted to receive said protruding portion and wherein the blank is placed on said receiving member and wherein the protruding portion forces part of the blank into said receiving portion.

10. A mechanism for grouping a plurality of articles which mechanism comprising an endless series of channels along which articles may be transferred into a plurality of article receiving cells of a carton wherein the channels are organised into groupings whereby each 5 grouping corresponds to a given number of articles to be loaded in the carton.

11. The mechanism as claimed in claim 10 wherein the channels are adapted to be substantially parallel to one another and then diverge into sub-groupings wherein each said 10 sub-group is spaced to align an article held in each said sub-group with one of said article receiving cells corresponding to each one of the cells of each carton and wherein the sub-groupings are each substantially parallel to one to provide in line parallel access to the cells.

12. A mechanism for causing a label affixed to an article to be oriented to a predetermined display position wherein the article includes a portion protruding outwardly of the article in a fixed position relative said label, wherein the mechanism comprises support means adapted to 15 support an article, orientation means adapted to cause the article to rotate in the support means until the protruding position is restrained by abutment means formed in said support means.

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20 13. The mechanism as claimed in claim 12 wherein one edge of the label affixed to the article overlays an opposed edge of said label to define said protruding portion.

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14. The mechanism as claimed in claim 12 or claim 13 wherein the support means comprises a channel including a support surface to retain part of the article within said channel.

5 15. The mechanism as claimed in claim 14 wherein said support surface substantially corresponds to the exterior surface of said retained part of the article.

10 16. The mechanism as claimed in any of claims 12 to 15 wherein the orientation means comprises an elongate member connected to resilient means, wherein said elongate member is adapted to abut a portion of said article as said support means is moved in a substantially parallel plane to said elongate member such that a tangential force is applied to said abutting portion of the article to cause the article to rotate.

15 17. The mechanism as claimed in claim 16 wherein said resilient means is adapted to reduce said tangential force when said protruding portion is restrained by said abutment means.

18. The mechanism as claimed in any of claims 12 to 17 wherein the abutment means is formed from an upper edge of said channel.

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19. A packaging machine as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 further comprising the mechanism of any of claims 12 to 18 to orientate said group of articles prior to loading the articles into the carton.

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20. A method of orienting to a predetermined display position wherein the article includes an outwardly protruding portion in a fixed position relative said label a label affixed to an article which method comprising the steps of supporting the article in support means during forward movement, rotating the article within the support means until the protruding portion abuts a portion of the support means and retaining the article in its desired orientation for loading into a carton.

10 21. The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising the step, prior to step (ii) of orienting a label.

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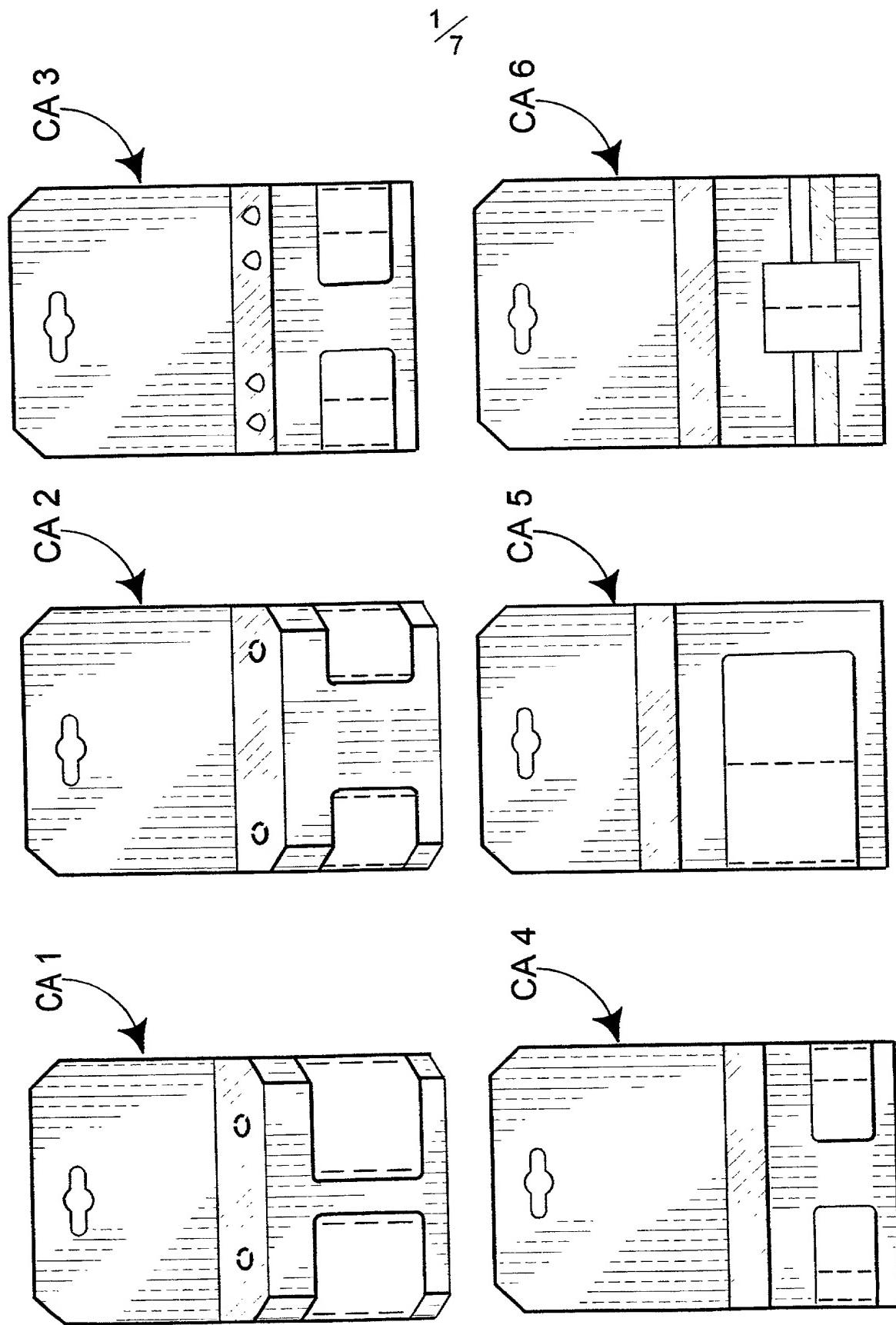


FIGURE 1

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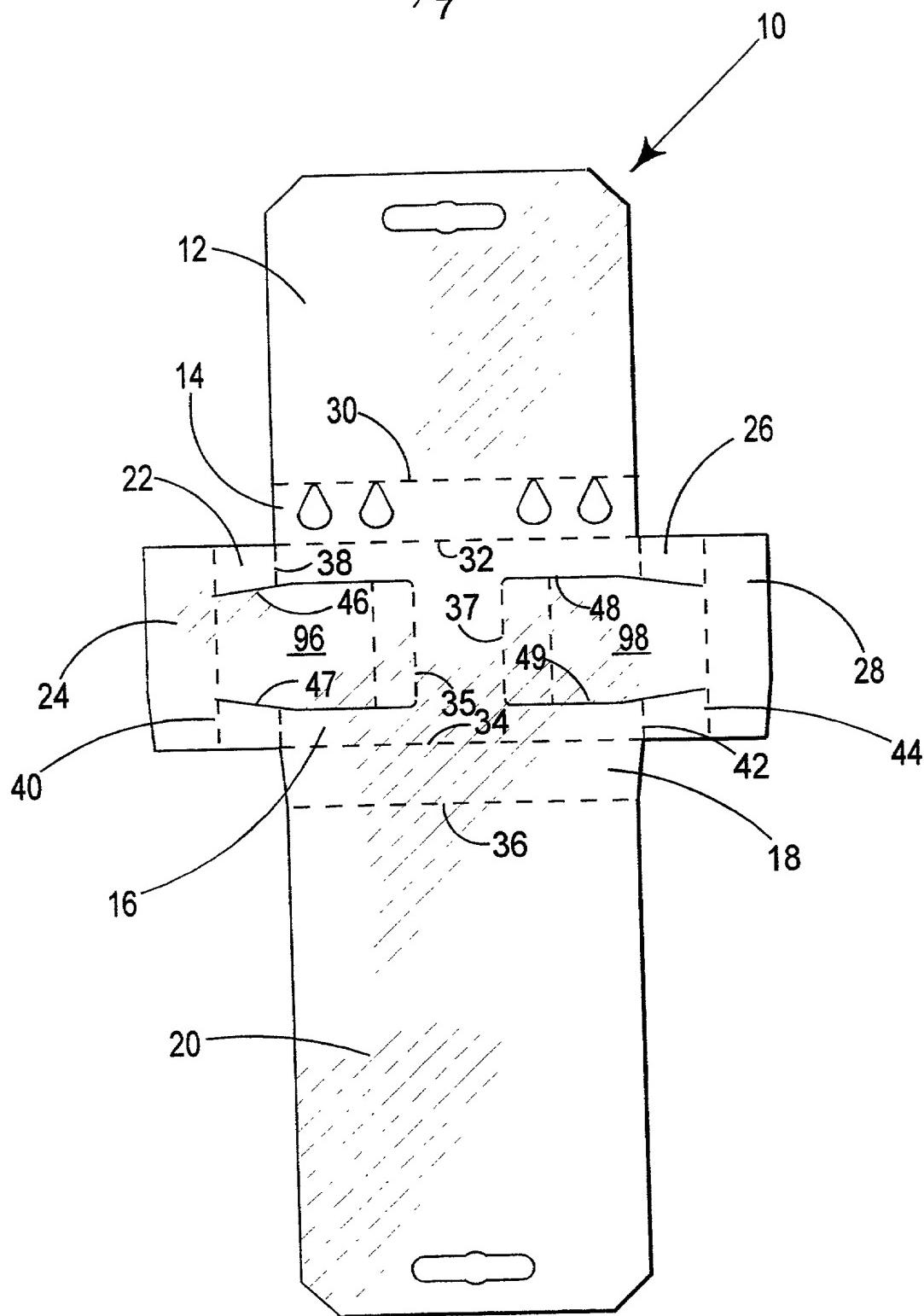


FIGURE 2

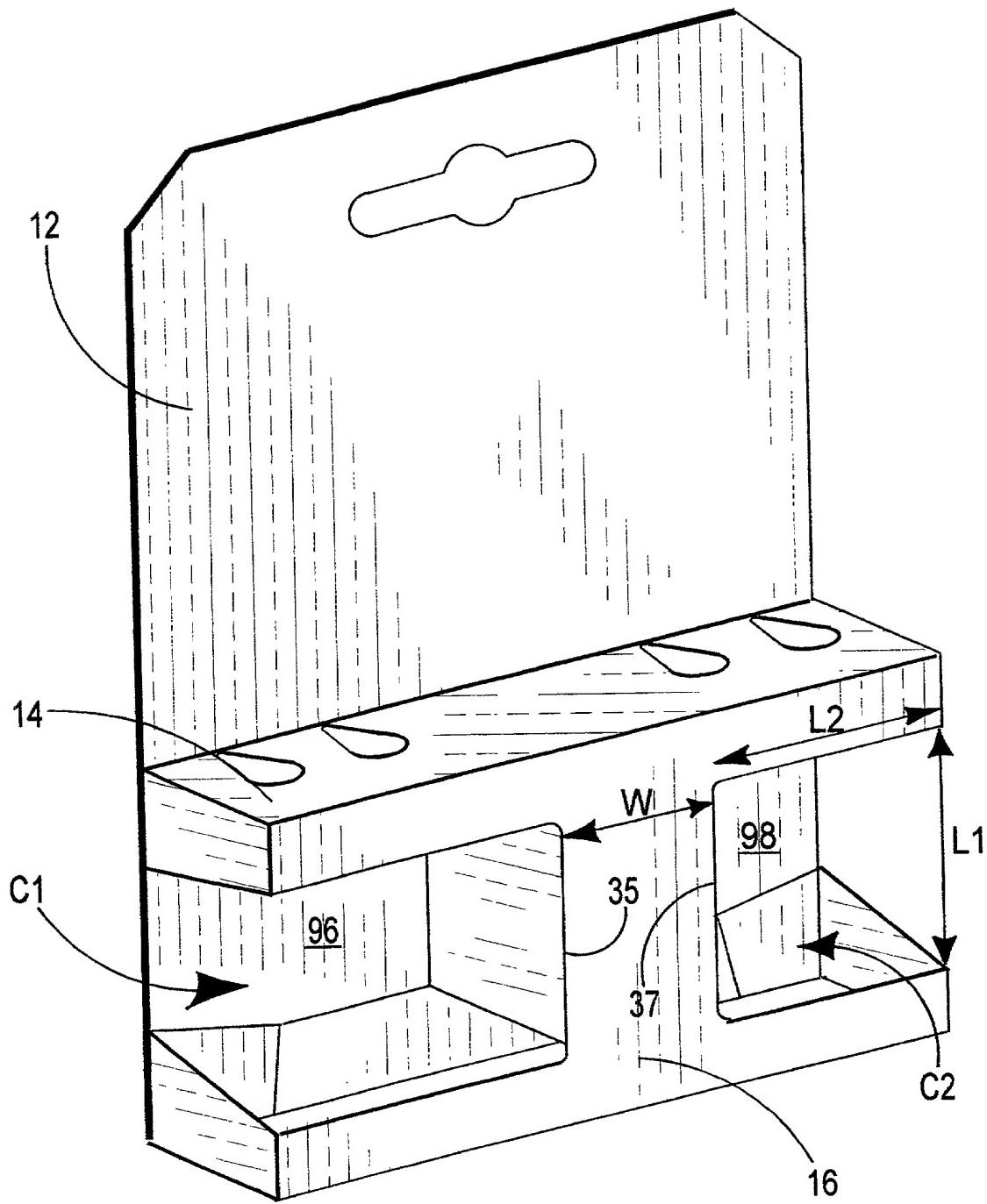
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FIGURE 3

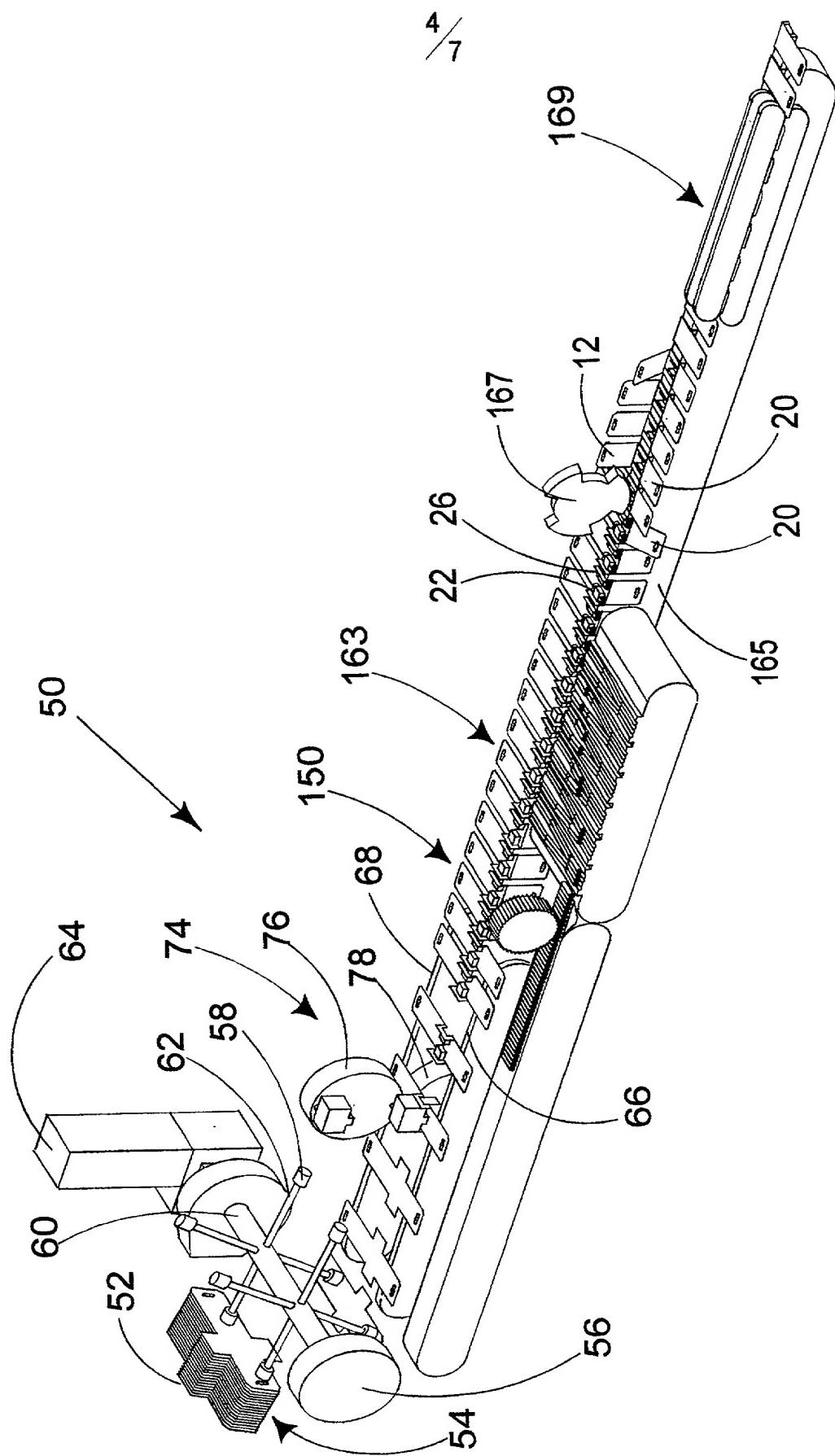


FIGURE 4

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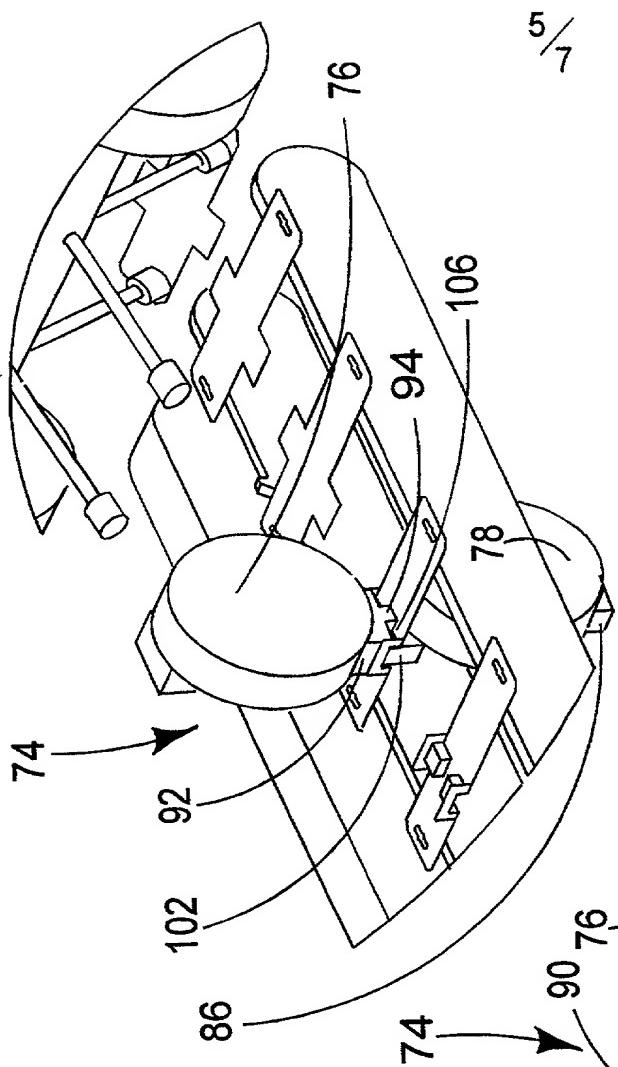


FIGURE 5b

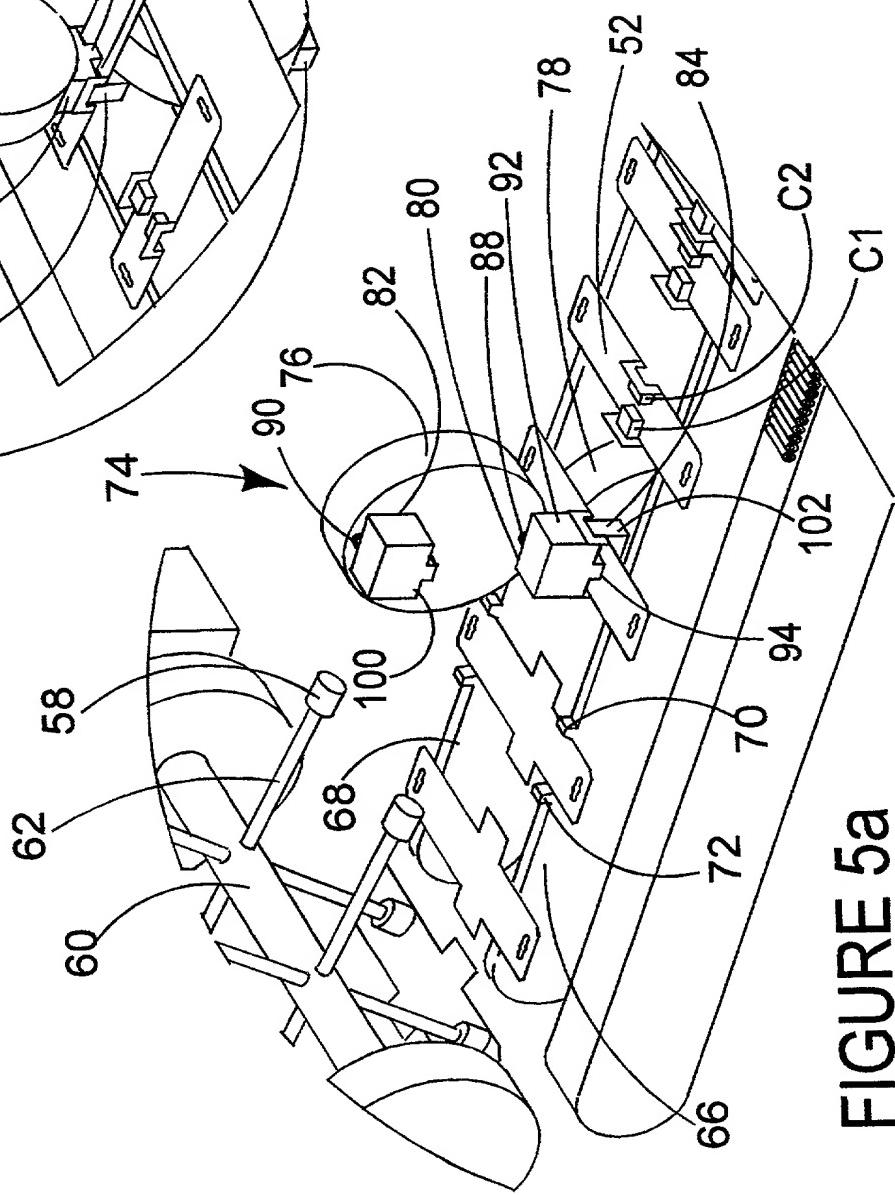
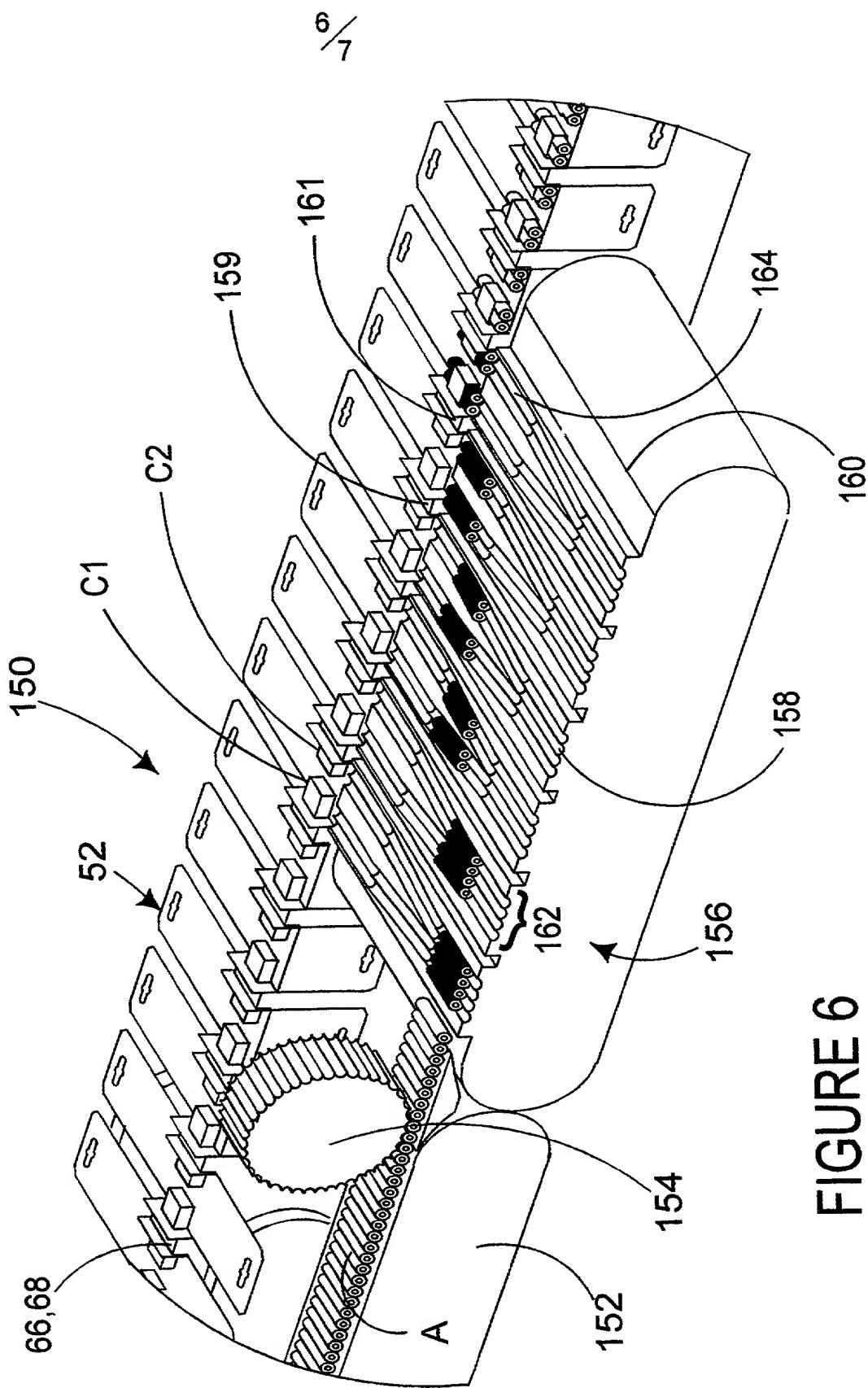


FIGURE 5a

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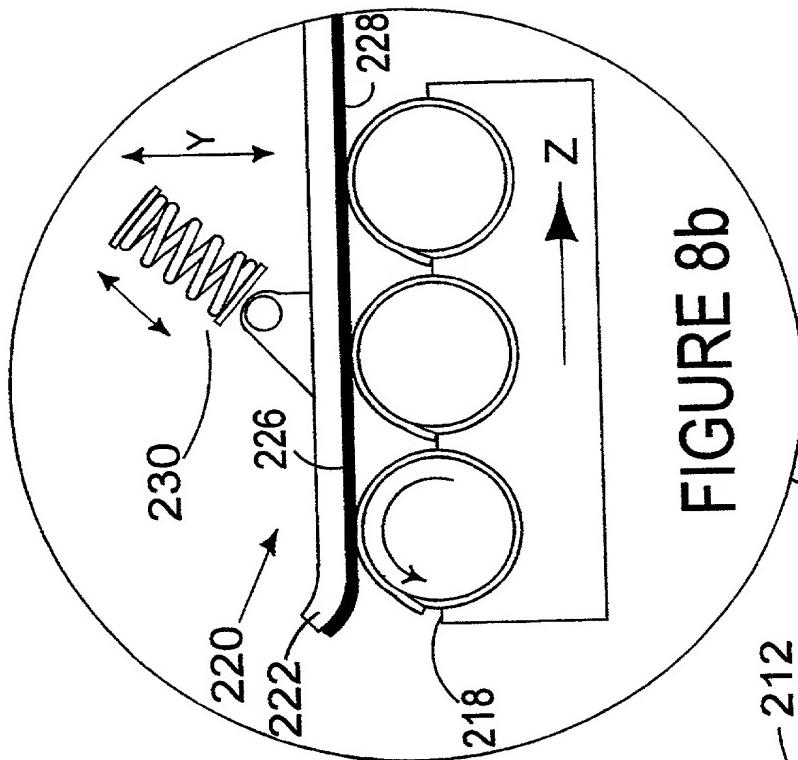
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FIGURE 8b

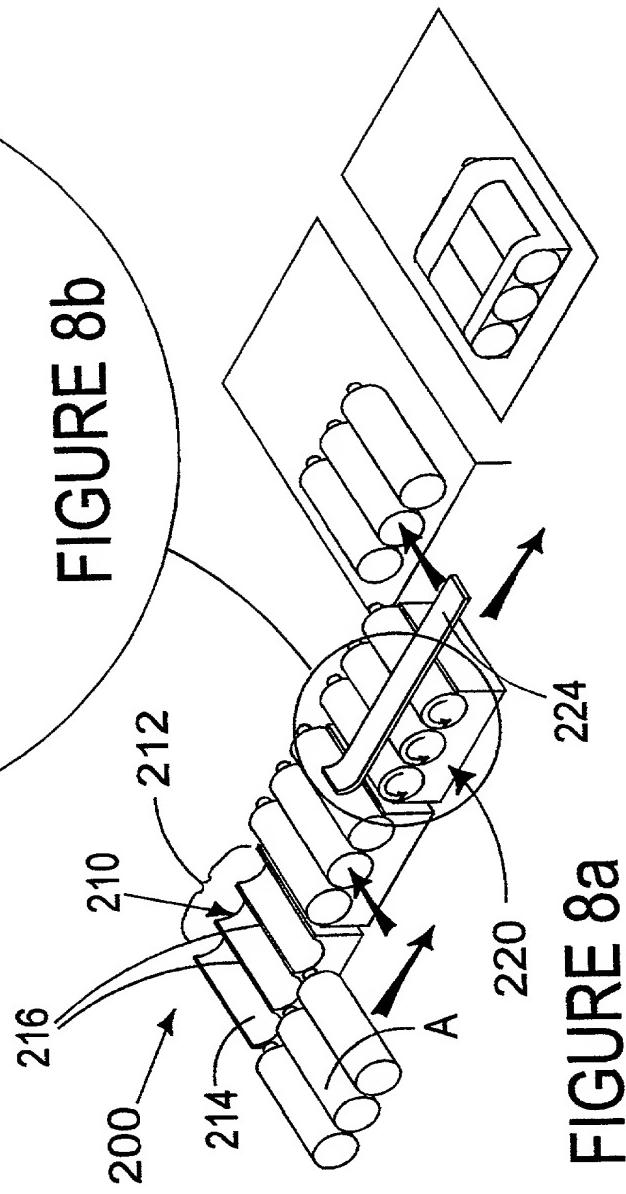


FIGURE 8a

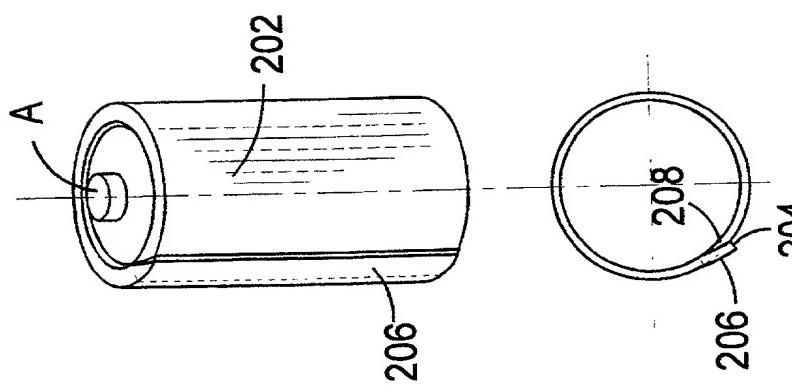


FIGURE 7

Docket No.

7683

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

MACHINE FOR PACKAGING A PLURALITY OF ARTICLES IN A CARTON, AND METHOD OF FORMING A CARTON

the specification of which

(check one)

is attached hereto.

was filed on JANUARY 15, 1999 as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number PCT/US99/00853
and was amended on _____
(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Not Claimed

9800884.0

Great Britain

16 January 1998

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(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C. F. R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. (*list name and registration number*)

Thomas A. Boshinski, Registration No. 30,611

Michael V. Drew, Registration No. 30,832

Tsugihiko Suzuki, Registration No. 36,321

(3)

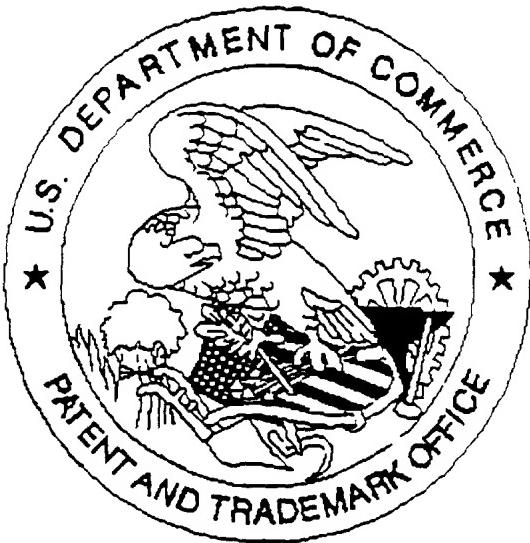
Send Correspondence to: Michael V. Drew
The Mead Corporation
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